

## *IX. Procurement Strategies*

We realize that no Y2K effort can succeed unless all new acquisitions of equipment and software are Y2K compliant at the time they are purchased. While it is true that hardware and software systems and other equipment were historically manufactured without Y2K safeguards built in, industry is now aware of the problem and is producing products that are Y2K compliant, according to their definition of the term. DOI is addressing the problem of ensuring that current and subsequent purchases by its bureaus and offices are compliant by taking the following measures:

1. Notifying procurement officials of the need to review acquisitions made since April 1, 1997, since some contracts such as DOD's, have been found to contain no Y2K language.
2. Notifying all procurement officials of the need to contact their vendors and suppliers to address the Y2K issue in all subsequent transactions with DOI offices and bureaus.
3. Using recommended Y2K language in all new or existing procurement documents, solicitations, and notices as a requirement for meeting specifications.
4. Requesting compliance letters from companies involved in major Departmental IT contracts.
5. Notifying all DOI employees holding government credit cards of their responsibility for making purchases of Y2K compliant products and services only.

DOI's Y2K Web page (<http://www.doi.gov/oirm/y2k/>) references GSA's list of Y2K compliant vendors and products, which was brought online late in 1997. The pilot effort conducted at Grand Canyon National Park resulted in a listing of baseline equipment, vehicles, aircraft, and related products that may be found in any of our parks which are or are not Y2K compliant. These lists were provided to all offices and bureaus of DOI.

The Department has adopted a Y2K procurement policy (Appendix C) that reflects a partnership between program managers and procurement officials. While program managers are being required to provide the parameters of Y2K compliancy for new IT acquisitions, procurement officials will provide the expertise for translating these requirements into procurement vehicles. The Department's Y2K procurement policy was published in the April 1, 1997 Department of the Interior Acquisition Policy Release (DIAPR) 1997-6.